

# Mono County Collaborative Planning Team

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## CPT MINUTES

February 22, 2007  
(Adopted April 26, 2007)

Members Present: Chair Hap Hazard, Mono Supervisors; John Eastman, Mammoth Lakes Town Council; Joe Pollini, BLM alternate; Jeff Bailey, USFS/Inyo; Joseph Saulque, Benton Paiute Reservation; Forest Becket, Caltrans; Brad Henderson, DFG alternate

Members Absent: Brad Mettam, Caltrans; Beverly Cheeseboro, DWP alternate; Denyse Racine, DFG; Cindi Mitton, Lahontan RWQCB; Charlotte Baker, Bridgeport Indian Colony

Staff Present: Scott Burns, Greg Newbry, Lynda Salcido, C.D. Ritter

Guests Present: Lara Kirkner, *Mammoth Times*; Clare Cragan & Emily Prudhomme, Mono Lake Committee; Mary Canada, Sierra Business Council; Joan Chaplick, MIG Consultants

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**1. CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE/INTRODUCTIONS:** Chair Hap Hazard called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. John Eastman led the flag salute, and attendees introduced themselves.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Clare Cragan, Mono Lake Committee, introduced Emily Prudhomme, who will be her replacement when she moves to New York.

Mary Canada, Sierra Business Council, announced the Eastern Sierra Cultural Alliance will publish a map/brochure of more than 20 Eastern Sierra sites north of Ridgecrest by Memorial Day. The Inyo Supervisors agreed to match Mono County Tourism's contribution. Inyo and Mono will co-sponsor a Collaborative Regional Workshop April 17 for business leaders and residents.

**3. MINUTES:** The minutes from Dec. 7, 2006, were adopted as presented. (Eastman/Pollini. Ayes: 7.)

**4. AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:** Agencies provided updates on planning issues and pending projects.

**5. NEW FISH & GAME ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FEES:** Brad Henderson, DFG environmental scientist, described SB 1535, the CEQA Filing Fee Increase. The perception was that fees were overused or abused and too low. The fee increases that took effect Jan. 1, 2007, were: EIRs, \$850 to \$2,500 (prior EIRs qualify as exemptions); negative declarations, \$1,250 to \$1,800; and county clerk up to \$50. Annual adjustments will be based on inflation. Filing fees are owed unless DFG determine that a project has no effect on fish or wildlife; e.g., cleared and developed lots. Currently, fees are routed through the state process, but hopefully the money eventually would result in positions and time to review documents.

**6. HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS IN SUBDIVISION DESIGN:** Lynda Salcido, Mono County public health director, encouraged deliberate public health participation in development. A \$5,000 grant will be designated for training public health for participation, livable and walkable communities, and partnering in the planning process. Health considerations could impact rural developments. Development proposals ought to address safety factors such as walking and biking to school. Scott Burns indicated that developers resist sidewalks and trails in subdivisions with large lots. Projects bordering BLM land could lead to storage and trespass on public land. Access without creating new use areas or trails is advised.

**7. CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2030:** Forest Becket, Caltrans District 9, described this plan as an umbrella for all modes of transportation. Stakeholder engagement, such as CPT, is needed, and tribal consultation is encouraged. Environmental components require mitigation monitoring, but no one thinks about paying for monitoring. Potential conflicts should be shown by GIS overlays and data sharing of land use, transportation, and water resources. If appropriate, Caltrans is encouraged to

incorporate pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities into projects. Rural areas comprise 94 percent of lands, but are inhabited by only 8 percent of the people.

**8. U.S. 395 TRANSPORTATION CONCEPT REPORT:** Forest Becket presented an overview of a 20-year planning horizon. The report directs future corridor development with a corridor map and route concept summary. Highways are grouped into classes and/or systems. Under consideration are route concept improvements, transit services, right-of-way comments, accident rates, and alternate routes.

**9. CHALFANT CORRIDOR PLAN:** Joan Chaplick, project manager for Berkeley-based Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc. consultants, specializes in projects that engage community residents in identifying options and alternatives in describing their future community. Success is defined as general agreement within a community. At an April meeting Chalfant attendees discussed existing conditions, changes, and their future. MIG will return to the community once or twice to present options.

Supervisor Hazard offered observations on his district: The existing community is limited by what's been done in the past and must assess how to offset impacts; an in-depth discussion of a school site might be required; the community is in a region expanding from different focal points; development pressure will increase residency on both sides of the highway, so a crossing mechanism is needed; also needed are bike lanes connecting Chalfant to White Mountain Estates, and increased park facilities and infrastructure; and current individual wells sunk into a shallow aquifer would incur increased pressure from more wells, so a mutual water company might be in order.

Caltrans' truck study on U.S. 6 last year noted a discrepancy between traffic counts and public perception. A small portion of a proposed 110,000-acre development in Sparks, NV, will house a potential distribution center that could affect straight, flat U.S. 6, which has no chain restrictions. Potential impacts, however, might not be as alarming as people initially thought.

Becket described Tri-Valley as a blank slate, a chance to get ahead of the curve instead of behind it.

Supervisor Hazard noted that U.S. 395 has volunteer FPDs and paramedic coverage, whereas U.S. 6 has two struggling FPDs and sporadic, limited speed enforcement resulting in more-severe accidents.

Joseph Saulque noted that fiercely independent, multigenerational people encounter philosophical conflicts. How do you rally people around design components? Chaplick suggested finding common ground and shared values, such as safety for children near a school site.

**10. CPT YEAR IN REVIEW:** Scott Burns presented background on the CPT and its commitment to making adjustments based on annual reviews. The year 2006 was a lighter year, with housing, transportation and water issues. Missing was a DFG sage grouse presentation as a follow-up to deer studies. Burns mentioned coordinating planning efforts, soil studies data, land tenure, and focusing development in existing communities instead of leapfrog development. He noted that attendance by CPT agencies has fallen off, and suggested members commit to attending six meetings/year. "Just meeting presents opportunities," he said. He requested member feedback:

Jeff Bailey: Important gathering of leadership; strongly encouraged continuing. Sharing info and providing a heads up are incredibly valuable. Media attendance gets information to the public. Discouraged about attendance drop-off.

Joe Pollini: Learned things that help in thinking about his agency's direction. Suggested targeting objectives for next year, such as Chalfant corridor.

Brad Henderson: Learned an incredible amount, accomplished a lot.

Joseph Saulque: If he stayed isolated in Benton, he wouldn't know what's going on with federal and state agencies. Information shared is valuable; continue it.

Hap Hazard: Valuable forum for discussion. Find a balance point of meeting saturation and travel. Positive discussion about where agencies are going flushes out conflict areas. Get other agencies back in and identify topics for a better-coordinated approach. Roundtable is powerful to help understand issues. Create a balance among pertinent discussion points.

**11. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Thursday, April 26, 2007.

**12. ADJOURN:** 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
C.D. Ritter, CPT secretary